

Backyard Hummingbird Habitat

Nesting

Rufous and Anna's nests are made of plant down and moss, bound together with spider silk. The exterior is decorated with lichen and bark.

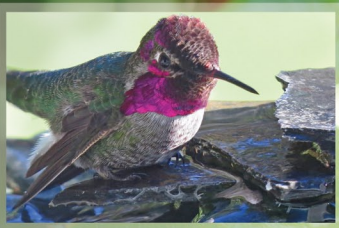
Native trees and underbrush provide nesting opportunities for hummingbirds as well as shelter from the elements.

Refraining from pruning or deadheading flowers offers birds valuable nest-building resources, like plant down for a soft lining.

Attracting Hummingbirds

Nectar producing native plants, like Salmonberry, Orange Honeysuckle and Red-flowering Currant are magnets for attracting hummingbirds to your yard.

Hummingbirds love to bathe. Naturally occurring water sources are ideal for this. In their absence, a clean fountain with fresh water will work just fine.



Male Anna's bathing in tabletop fountain.



Rufous Hummingbird nestlings. Nest was on an Oregon Grape stock.



Female Rufous collecting plant down from Dusty Miller in mid-March.



Nest opening is typically 1" in diameter and eggs are the size of coffee beans.

Unlike most bird species, where paired males and females share duties, female hummingbirds construct their nests and raise young alone, without help from a male partner.

Hummingbird nestlings fledge about 22 days after hatching.

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Diet

In addition to flower nectar, tiny insects are a vital part of the hummingbird's diet, especially during nesting season when young birds need a constant supply of protein.

When considering placement of feeders and plants to attract birds, it is important to minimize their exposure to cats. Keep feeder in a shady area to retard spoilage and replace fluid regularly.

Sugar water for hummingbird feeder:
1/4 cup white sugar per cup of water



Male Rufous Hummingbird